3.11 MINERAL RESOURCES

MINERAL RESOURCES – Would the Project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.11.1 Environmental Setting

The Project site is located in and offshore of the City of Carlsbad. The onshore component is located immediately west of Carlsbad State Beach and south of Agua Hedionda and supports recreational, open space, and industrial uses. No mineral resource extraction occurs at or within the vicinity of the Project site. According to the City of Carlsbad (2006) OSCE, Carlsbad does not have any economically significant mineral resources. According to California Geological Survey (2012a, 2012b) reports regarding aggregate sustainability in California, Western San Diego County is one of the areas with the greatest projected future need for aggregate due to a significant deficit in local production in this area (only 167 tons of production of 1,014 required million tons).

3.11.2 Regulatory Setting

3.11.2.1 Federal and State

Federal and State laws and regulations pertaining to this issue area and relevant to the Project are identified in Table 3.11-1.

Table 3.11-1. Laws, Regulations, and Policies (Mineral Resources)

CA	Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) (Pub. Resources, §§ 2710-2796)	In accordance with SMARA, the California Geological Survey classifies the regional significance of mineral resources and assists in the designation of lands containing significant aggregate resources. Mineral Resource Zones (MRZs) have been designated to indicate the significance of mineral deposits. The MRZ categories are: • MRZ-1: Areas where adequate information indicates that no significant mineral deposits are present or where it is judged that little likelihood exists for their presence. • MRZ-2: Areas where adequate information indicates significant mineral deposits are present, or where it is judged that a high likelihood exists for their presence. • MRZ-3: Areas containing mineral deposits the significance of which cannot be evaluated from available data. • MRZ-4: Areas where available information is inadequate for assignment to any other MRZ.

3.11.2.2 Local

The City of Carlsbad (2006) General Plan OSCE addresses mineral resources; however, since there are no economically significant mineral resources in the City, there are no relevant goals, objectives, or policies relevant to onshore Project activities.

3.11.3 Impact Analysis

a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State?

No Impact. The Project area consists of a developed energy facility site, public road, beach, and ocean, and no mineral resource areas are located at the Project site, adjacent to the Project site, or within the City of Carlsbad. Therefore, the project would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State.

b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?

No Impact. The Project area consists of a developed energy facility site, public road, beach, and ocean, and no mineral resource areas are located at the Project site, adjacent to the Project site, or within the City of Carlsbad. Therefore, the Project would not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan.

The beach valve pit would be backfilled and compacted with approximately 87 cubic yards of native soil from off-site sources (see Figure A1-3 and Figure A2-5 in Appendix A). Native backfill soil and sand from off-site sources will be obtained from approved and permitted sources in accordance with the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act and will have similar grain size characteristics and color to the surrounding soil and sand at the Project site.

3.11.4 Mitigation Summary

The Project would not result in significant impacts to mineral resources; no mitigation is required.